amount of money and time on research to find a cure for the killer disease, AIDS, no break-through has been made so far;

(b) whether under the circumstances, AIDS prevention education programme could go a long way in the fight against this killer disease;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken steps towards education programme by creating awareness among the public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No, sir. However, the Government is encouraging research in the field of HIV/AIDS including Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive awareness campaign is being pursued by NACO to prevent/reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS. This comprises of telecasting of regular TB spots and programmes on radio. Use of print media is also made for this purpose. On special occasions, such as World AIDS Day, World Health Day and National Blood Donation Day, multimedia campaigns are carried out throughout the country. Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division is also being utilised for folk media programme on HIV/AIDS.

Targeted Intervention programmes have also been taken up to reduce the rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS among the most vulnerable and maginalised population and to create awareness among them. Apart from this, Family Health Awareness Campaigns are also being observed throughout the country from time to time for creating awareness among the general population.

ACP Scheme for CGHS Pharmacists

3486. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assured Career Progression 1st and 2nd is granted to CGHS Pharmacists of Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani systems of Medicine, on

completion of 12 and 24 years of regular service, respectively, as recommended by the 5th Central Pay Commission, while the same is denied to Pharmacists of Allopathic system; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration to finalise the ACP of CGHS Pharmacists; and

(c) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) In the cadre of the Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani Pharmacists in CGHS. Assured Career Progression has been granted in these cadres as they fulfilled all the criteria prescribed under the scheme.

1st and 2nd Assured Career Progression has not been granted to allopathic Pharmacists working under CGHS as certain clarification is awaited from the Department of Personnel & Training.

(b) and (c) Information has been furnished *vide* reply to (a) above.

Allegation against former Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital

†3487. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the allegations levelled against the former Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Salhan, by its employees and other persons/institutions;

(b) whether these allegations have been investigated into by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government to remove Dr. Salhan from the post of Superintendent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No such information is available.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.